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Message Text

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60
ACTION XMB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FRB-02

OMB-01 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 AID-20 AGR-20 SP-03 NSC-07

SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 DRC-01 /162 W
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R 301641Z MAY 74
FM USINT ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0595

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP, EFIN, AG
SUBJ: EXIM PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO ALGIERS

PASS EXIM

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF EXIMBANK, WILLIAM CASEY WAS GIVEN WARM WELCOM IN ALGIERS, MAY 27-28. THERE FOLLOWS A LIST OF PRINCIPAL PEOPLE CASEY MET WITH AND A FEW MAJOR TOPICS DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST MORNING CASEY MET WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND ENERGY. HOST SECRETARY GENERAL CASTEL, IN ABSENCE OF MINISTER ABDESSELAM ON TRADE MISSION IN GERMANY, DESCRIBED NEW FOUR-YEAR PLAN WITH ITS 106.7 BILLION DINAR INVESTMENT PROGRAM (26 BILLION DOLLARS). FINAL WORK ON PLAN, CALCULATIONS OF PROJECTS WITHIN ALLOTMENTS TO MINISTRIES STILL GOING ON. CASTEL MADE CLEAR GOA DESIRES TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH EXIM. CASEY RESPONDED ON NEED FOR CLOSE COORDINATION. EXIM WANTS TO ASSIST IN ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, BUT THERE IS LIMIT TO BANK'S AUTHORIZATION WHICH MEANS SOME PROJECTS WORLDWIDE MAY HAVE TO BE TURNED DOWN. BANK WILL CONSIDER CASES ON PROJECT BY PROJECT BASIS, BUT VIEW OF LARGER NEEDS OF
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ALGERIA WILL IMPROVE BANK'S DECISION MAKING AND BE IN INTEREST

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OF ALGERIA. CASTEL POINTED
OUT ABDESSELAM WOULD PROBABLY BE LEADING ALGERIAN
INSUSTRIAL MISSION TO U.S. THIS FALL IN LINE WITH EARLIER
MISSION TO JAPAN AND PRESENT MISSION TO GERMANY.

3. ALSO PRESENT AT CASTEL MEETING WERE PRESIDENT GHOZALI OF
SONATRACH AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL HAKIKI OF SONELEC.
GTE PROJECT WITH SONELEC WAS CITED AS IMPORTANT STEP IN ALGERIAN
DEVELOPMENT PLANS IN ELECTRONICS AREA.

4. IN AFTERNOON CASEY MET WITH OFFICIALS OF SECRETARIAT OF STATE
FOR PLAN, MR. ANNANE-DIRECTOR FOR FUTURE PLANNING AND MR.
BERRAOUI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INDUSTRIAL PLANNING.

5. DINNER WAS HOSTED BY GHOZALI AND CASTEL WHERE FUTURE SONATRACH
PROJECTS -- GAS RECYCLING PLANTS, PLASTICS INDUSTRY AND 7
MILLION TON REFINERY AT BEJAIA WERE DISCUSSED.

6. ON TUESDAY, MAY 28, CASEY SAW SECRETARY GENERAL NOURREDINE
BOUKLI AT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE WITH HIS TOP OFFICIALS
INCLUDING HADJ MOKHTAR LOUHIBI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF OFFICE
ALGERIEN INTERPROFESSIONAL DU CEREALS. BOUKLI POINTED OUT
11 BILLION DINARS (2.7 BILLION DOLLARS) WILL BE INVESTED UNDER
NEW PLAN IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

7. SECRETARY-GENERAL SALAH-BEY OF MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT NEXT
MET WITH CASEY ACCOMPANIED BY PRESIDENTS OF SOCIETE NATIONALE
DES CHEMINS DE FER ALGERIENE, SADDEK BEN MEHDJOUBA, AND AIR
ALGERIE, COMMANDANT MOHAMED BOUZADA. COMPAGNIE NATIONALE ALGERIENNE DE

NAVIGATION'S INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL LNG TANKERS WAS NOTED.

8. AT MEETING FOLLOWED BY LUNCH MINISTER FOF FINANCE,
MAHROUG, ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY GENERAL AOUFI, EMPHASIZED NEED
FOR CLOSE COORDINATION WITH EXIM. MAHROUG INVITED CASEY TO
NEW YORK MEETING HE IS PLANNING WITH ASSISTANCE OF CHASE
PRESIDENT, DAVID ROCKEFELLER, FOR SEPTEMBER 27 WITH U.S.
BANKERS. USING DATA FROM IMF/WORLD BANK REPORT ON ALGERIA
THAT WILL BE READY IN SEPTEMBER PLUS LIST OF PROJECTS IN NEW
FOUR-YEAR PLAN, MAHROUG PLANS TO MAKE EXTENSIVE REVIEW OF ALGERIAN
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ECONOMY AND PROJECTS. CASEY AGREED WITH NEED FOR PROVIDING FULL
INFORMATION AS IT WILL ASSIST EXIM. HE ALSO POINTED OUT ALGERIAN
ECONOMY NOW STRONG ENOUGH SO IT SHOULD BE ABLE TO BORROW
NON-EXIM PORTION FROM COMMERCIAL BANKS WITHOUT EXIM GUARANTEE.
THIS IS IMPORTANT AS IT SPREADS EXIM LEADING FURTHER AS GUARANTEES
COUNT AGAINST EXIM ANNUAL LOAN LIMIT SET BY CONGRESS.

9. AT LUNCH CASEY HAD A CHANCE TO MEET WITH ALGERIAN BANKERS,

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BANQUE EXTERIEURE D'ALGERIE - BOUASRIA BELGHOULA, BANQUE NATIONALE D'ALGERIE - ABDELMALEK TEMMAM. BANQUE ALGERIENNE DE DEVELOPPEMENT - BABA AHMED, BANQUE CENTRALE D'ALGERIE - SEGHIR MOSTEFAI, AND CREDIT POPOLAIRE D'ALGERIE -

10. IN AFTERNOON CASEY MET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HYDRAULICS ABDELLAH ARBAOUI. CASEY CONCLUDED VISIT WITH MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, SEPTEL.EAGLETON

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